CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A vacuum line sanitization device for sanitizing a vacuum line, comprising:

a canister body having a first end and an opposing second end, said canister body forming a fluid chamber therein, said fluid chamber configured to receive a supply of chemicals suitable for sanitizing the vacuum line;

an inlet on said canister body in communication with said fluid chamber for disposing a fluid inside said fluid chamber, said fluid selected so as to form a sanitizing mixture when combined with said supply of chemicals;

means for sealing said inlet for preventing flow of said fluid from said fluid chamber out of said canister body through said fluid inlet; and

an outlet on said canister body in communication with said fluid chamber, said outlet comprising means for connecting said outlet to one end of the vacuum line, said outlet further comprising means for selectively dispensing said fluid through the vacuum line so as to clean and sanitize the vacuum line,

whereby the vacuum line is sanitized by opening said dispensing means to draw said sanitizing mixture through the vacuum line.

2. The vacuum line sanitization device according to claim 1 further comprising an inner chamber in said canister body, said inner chamber in fluid communication with said fluid chamber, said inner chamber configured to receive said supply of chemicals.

3. The vacuum line sanitization device according to claim 2, wherein said inner chamber comprises a perforated sleeve.

4. The vacuum line sanitization device according to claim 1, wherein said inlet is at said first end of said canister body and said outlet is at said second end of said canister body.

5. The vacuum line sanitization device according to claim 1, wherein said connecting means comprises an outlet stem sized and configured to be received into one end of the vacuum line.

6. The vacuum line sanitization device according to claim 1, wherein said sealing means is a quick-release valve.

7. The vacuum line sanitization device according to claim 1, wherein said sealing means is a seat valve.

8. The vacuum line sanitization device according to claim 1, wherein said dispensing means comprises a closeable valve.

9. The vacuum line sanitization device according to claim 1, wherein said supply of chemicals is a solid chemical cartridge.

10. The vacuum line sanitization device according to claim 1 further comprising an indicator configured to indicate when said supply of chemicals must be replaced.

11. A vacuum line sanitization device for sanitizing a vacuum line, comprising:

a canister body having a first end and an opposing second end, said canister body forming a fluid chamber therein, said fluid chamber configured to receive a supply of chemicals suitable for sanitizing the vacuum line;

an inlet on said canister body in communication with said fluid chamber for disposing a fluid inside said fluid chamber, said fluid selected so as to form a sanitizing mixture when combined with said supply of chemicals;

an inlet valve at said inlet, said inlet valve configured to connect to a fluid supply line and receive said fluid therefrom, said inlet valve further configured to prevent flow of said fluid from said fluid chamber out of said canister body through said fluid inlet; and

an outlet on said canister body in communication with said fluid chamber, said outlet having an outlet stem and an outlet valve, said outlet stem sized and configured to connect said outlet to an end of the vacuum line, said outlet valve configured to selectively allow said fluid to flow through the vacuum line so as to clean and sanitize the vacuum line,

whereby the vacuum line is sanitized by opening said outlet valve to draw said sanitizing mixture through the vacuum line.

12. The vacuum line sanitization device according to claim 11 further comprising an inner chamber in said canister body, said inner chamber in fluid communication with said fluid chamber, said inner chamber configured to receive said supply of chemicals.

13. The vacuum line sanitization device according to claim 12, wherein said inner chamber comprises a perforated sleeve.

14. The vacuum line sanitization device according to claim 11, wherein said inlet valve comprises a quick-release valve.

15. The vacuum line sanitization device according to claim 11, wherein said inlet valve comprises a seat valve.

16. The vacuum line sanitization device according to claim 11, wherein said supply of chemicals is a solid chemical cartridge.

17. The vacuum line sanitization device according to claim 16 further comprising an inner chamber in said canister body, said inner chamber in fluid communication with said fluid chamber, said inner chamber configured to receive said solid chemical cartridge.

18. The vacuum line sanitization device according to claim 11 further comprising an indicator configured to indicate when said supply of chemicals must be replaced.

19. A method of sanitizing a vacuum line connected to a vacuum system, comprising the steps of:

placing a supply of chemicals inside a fluid chamber disposed within a canister body of a sanitization device;

sealing said canister body;

connecting a fluid supply line to an inlet valve on said canister body and connecting an end of the vacuum line to an outlet on said canister body, said outlet having an outlet valve thereon in fluid communication with said fluid chamber;

disposing a quantity of a fluid into said fluid chamber through said inlet valve;

waiting for said fluid to chemically react with said supply of chemicals to form a sanitizing mixture in said fluid chamber;

opening said outlet valve; and

activating the vacuum system so as to initiate flow of said sanitizing mixture from said fluid chamber to clean and sanitize the vacuum line.

20. The method according to claim 19, wherein said sanitization device further comprises an inner chamber in said canister body, said inner chamber in fluid communication with said fluid chamber, said inner chamber configured to receive said supply of chemicals.